



Proposed Competencies for Needling Techniques in Osteopathic Practice

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Competencies

This document presents the proposed minimum or threshold competencies for Needling Techniques in Osteopathic Practice in New Zealand. These competencies are supplementary to the general Osteopathic Practice Competencies, and an osteopathic practitioner utilising needling techniques in their practice would be expected to meet both sets of standards.

The competencies are aligned to the five domains presented in the Osteopathic Practice Competencies:

1. Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership responsibilities
2. Communication and patient partnership
3. Knowledge, skills and performance
4. Safety and quality in practice
5. Professionalism

Domain 1: Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership responsibilities

Competencies

- 1.1** Understands the responsibilities of tangata whenua and tangata Tiriti under te Tiriti o Waitangi and demonstrates a commitment to meeting these while using needling techniques in practice.
- 1.2** Understands Māori models of health, health promotion and health practices, and their relationship to needling techniques and models of care.

Domain 2: Communication and patient partnership

Competencies

- 2.1** Communicates clearly with patients and ensures that appropriate informed consent is gained when discussing needling techniques.
- 2.2** Considers socio-cultural factors in communication around needling techniques, ensuring inclusivity for Māori and other diverse populations.
- 2.3** Ensures clear, culturally relevant explanation, and patient and/or care-giver comprehension, of the clinical reasoning supporting the use (or not) of needling techniques in osteopathic practice.
- 2.4** Ensures that patients, and wider whānau, are appropriately informed about the use, effect and potential risks of using needling techniques in osteopathic practice.
- 2.5** Demonstrates a commitment to following the OCNZ guidelines for the examination and treatment of sensitive areas, and that communication with patients related to the use of needling techniques in these areas is explicit and guideline-led.

Domain 3: Knowledge, skills, and performance

Competencies

- 3.1** Understands and appropriately employs and adapts a range of clinical skills specific to the use of needling techniques in osteopathic practice.
- 3.2** Demonstrates an appropriate level of clinical reasoning regarding the use of needling techniques, including specific understanding of contraindications when using needling techniques in a clinical setting.
- 3.3** Maintains an appropriate level of record keeping specific to the use of needling techniques in osteopathic practice.
- 3.4** Maintains a commitment to the principles of evidence-based practice for needling techniques within the context of Aotearoa New Zealand and integrates this appropriately within the osteopathic consultation and treatment approach.

Domain 4: Safety and quality in practice

Competencies

- 4.1** Ensures safe needle use and disposal and demonstrates the appropriate management of a range of adverse reactions following the use of needling techniques.
- 4.2** Ensures patient care and management of adverse events is conducted in a culturally safe manner when using needling techniques in osteopathic practice.
- 4.3** Provides a safe environment in which to use needling techniques, ensuring compliance with health and safety requirements.
- 4.4** Provides for continuing professional learning related to the use of needling techniques in osteopathic practice.

Domain 5: Professionalism

Competencies

- 5.1** Maintains an awareness of the regulatory environment within which they are working, and adherence to the associated regulatory and legal responsibilities.
- 5.2** Maintains a multidisciplinary approach and demonstrates the appropriate use of needling techniques with patients who are undergoing other clinical interventions.
- 5.3** Demonstrates a commitment to promoting equity and Te Tiriti-aligned practices within the community of those using needling techniques in osteopathic practice.